Mr. SPEAKER.—Question No. 185. Janab Syed Abdur Rahman. The Hon'ble Member is not present. The question will be treated as an unstarred question.

Mr. SPEAKER.—Question No. 24. Sri M. Govinda Reddy.

Sittings of the Public Accounts Committee.

*Q.—24. **Sri M. GOVINDA REDDY** (Chitaldrug District—General).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

the number of times that the Public Accounts Committee met—

(i) during the last financial year;

(ii) during the current year to-date;

(iii) the number of members attending each meeting in the above periods?

A.—**The Hon'ble Sri H. C. DASAPPA** (Minister for Finance and Industries).—

(i) Once. Held five meetings. 9th May 1949 to 13th May 1949 (both days inclusive).

(ii) Once. Held six meetings; 15th June 1950, 16th June 1950, 17th June 1950, 22nd June 1950, 23rd June 1950 and 4th July 1950.

(iii) The strength of the Committee is six.

Last Financial year	9th May 1949	Four members.
Do	...10th May 1949	do
Do	.. 11th May 1949	do
Do	...12th May 1949	do
Do	...13th May 1949	do
Current year	...15th June 1950	Six members.
Do	...16th June 1950	do
Do	.. 17th June 1950	do
Do	...22nd June 1950	Five members
Do	...23rd June 1951	Six members.
Do	... 4th July 1950	Four members.

Sri M. GOVINDA REDDY.—I have no supplementaries to ask.

Measures taken to improve the lot of Handloom Weavers.

*Q.—36. **Sri M. V. KRISHNAPPA** (Kolar District—General).—

Will the Government be pleased to state:—

the measures taken by them to improve the lot of the handloom weavers in the State?

A.—**The Hon'ble Sri H. C. DASAPPA** (Minister for Finance and Industries).—

Various measures as under are being undertaken from time to time by the Department of Industries and Commerce as a part of the Departmental activities for the amelioration of the conditions of the handloom weavers in relation to the development of the industries in the State:—

(*a*) *Arrangements for supply of the main raw material, cotton yarn, to weavers.*—On account of the difficulty in obtaining supplies at reasonable rates, yarn is made available to handloom weavers at controlled rates Forty-seven Government yarn depots have been established in important centres all over the State for distributing about 10 to 15 per cent of yarn meant for handloom weavers. The balance is distributed through licensed merchants who are punished suitably if they should indulge in irregular practices.

(*b*) *Popularising use of improved tools and appliances.*—The most striking progress achieved under this head is the substitution of the fly-shuttle for the throw-shuttle which has resulted in three hundred per cent increase in capacity of output, not to speak of the convenience to the handloom weavers.

Other improvements introduced are the double-shuttle looms, chain tappet, doubling charka, pattern weaving dobby, all to improve the output as well as the quality of the fabric.

(*c*) *Popularisation of production of cloth in new patterns and designs.*—Demonstration units are being run in 16 important centres with a view to educate the weavers in production of new patterns and designs suiting changes in public taste and demand.